UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1992/24/Add.3
E/CN.6/1992/13/Add.3
3 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session

Programme budget implications of resolution 36/8 adopted by the Commission

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1992 in its decision 1992/272, endorsed the recommendations contained in resolution 36/8 of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. In paragraph 5 of section A of that resolution, the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General appoint a woman as Secretary-General of the Conference, not later than 1992, who should have international stature in relation to the advancement of women and experience of the United Nations system, and who would assume primary responsibility for the preparation of the Conference (E/1992/24).

2. In the statement of programme budget implications considered by the Economic and Social Council before the adoption of its decision 1992/272, the Secretary-General stated that when a decision was taken on the appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference, a statement on the financial implications of such an appointment and other requirements that might be necessary in connection therewith would be submitted (E/1992/24/Add.2, para. 33).

3. The Secretary-General has now decided to appoint the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, effective 1 January 1993 through 31 December 1995, to assume primary responsibility, within the purview of the new Department for Policy

Coordination and Sustainable Development, for the overall preparation and coordination of the Conference. In addition to other staff resources available for the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference would need a secretary at the General-Service level for the same period. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the Conference would need to travel for consultations with a number of Governments and to attend meetings in connection with preparations for the Conference. On that basis, it is estimated that a provision for additional expenditures in the amount of $217,800 for general temporary assistance and $20,000 for travel would be required for 1993.

4. The above additional requirements, amounting to $237,800, would constitute additional expenditures that have not been provided for in the programme budget for 1992-1993 and would therefore be subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213.

5. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

6. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, in order to finance the above-mentioned general temporary assistance and travel proposed for activities to be carried out under section 21, Social development and humanitarian affairs.

7. In summary, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund, an additional appropriation of $237,800 is required under section 21, Social development and humanitarian affairs, for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, an amount of $60,900 would be required under section 36, staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

8. The related requirements for the biennium 1994-1995 will be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.